



2016 NEW JERSEY BEAR PERMIT BUYERS SURVEY RESULTS

Survey issued: April 2017
Data analyzed: August 2018-January 2019
Report issued: August 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted a survey of 2016 black bear hunting permit buyers to define bear permit buyers' characteristics, evaluate bear hunter satisfaction and determine bear hunters' preferences for bear season frameworks. Ninety-two percent (92%) of permit buyers stated that they participated in the 2016 hunting season. Persons who did not hunt after buying the permit (8%) tended to be in the older age classes (78% were 50 and older); while 81% of participants were age 21 to 64 and 58% of participants were 50 and older.

Slightly more than ten percent (10.5%) of respondents were non-resident, which is different than NJ hunters in general (7.3%) and bear permit buyers (11.9%).

Of those permit buyers that hunted, the majority (52%) hunted both Segments A & B; about one-quarter (29%) hunted Segment A only, and only 18% hunted Segment B only. More than three-quarters (81%) of bear permit buyer respondents who hunted participated in Segment A while 71% of respondents who hunted participated in Segment B. The vast majority (80%) of bear permit buyers prefer to hunt in Segment A; 81% hunt for bear where they normally hunt for deer.

One thousand-two hundred and two (1,202) black bear permit buyers recorded a minimum of 3,026 hunting-days in Segment A and a minimum of 2,480 hunting-days in Segment B for a minimum total of 5,506 hunting-days for the 2016 Black Bear Hunting Season.

Although 81% of respondents who hunted reported that they hunt bears where they normally hunt for deer, only 31% of those respondents who did not hunt for bears in 2016 reported same.

The majority of respondents who hunted (51%) pursued bears on private land.

More than three-quarters of respondents who hunted (78%) were satisfied with the bear hunting season structure.

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents who hunted stated that they would harvest 2 bears (one in each segment). Eighty percent (80%) of successful respondents would harvest 2 bears.

Non-residents hunted primarily on State land (46%); seventy-six percent (76%) said they hunted bears where they hunt for deer. Nearly three-quarters (72%) hunted to kill a bear of any size or a large bear if the opportunity was presented.

BACKGROUND

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) manages black bears according to its Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy (CBBMP) to ensure the continued survival of black bears in New Jersey. This approach allows DFW to address the bear-related property damage and safety concerns of residents and farmers while maintaining a healthy population of black bears in the state. DFW's active, integrated bear management strategy is effective and essential for maintaining bears at a density that provides for a sustainable population within suitable bear habitat, minimizes human-bear conflicts, and reduces emigration of bears to unsuitable habitat in suburban and urban areas. Prior to 2016, the bear hunting seasons were structured at a very conservative level resulting in a decreased harvest rate and increasing bear population over time. The introduction of archery, a two-bear bag limit, and longer season length all contributed to increased opportunities to harvest a bear to meet harvest objectives. The expansion of the hunting season in length, legal weaponry, and huntable area in the 2015 CBBMP has proven to be effective at reducing bear complaints and decreasing the risk to public safety and property.

The hunting season structure of 2003, 2005, and 2010 through 2014 was timed to be conservative, restricting harvest to bears that had not yet entered winter dens. This conservative structure allowed important data to be collected on NJ bear harvest rates without negatively impacting the population. However, employing this conservative, late season structure contributed to a reduction in harvest rates, which in turn, led to an increase in estimated bear population numbers from 1,911 in 2012 to 3,500 in 2014. Following revisions to the CBBMP in 2015, DFW and the Fish and Game Council (Council) expanded the 2016 and 2017 bear hunting seasons to include an October archery and muzzleloader season segment (Segment A) along with the December segment (Segment B). DFW and Council also allowed hunters the opportunity to take two bears (one in October and one in December).

Although the 2016 regulations have resulted in an increased harvest and a 61% decrease in Category 1 (bears endangering human safety, livestock, pets, and property) complaints the following year, it was important to evaluate hunter opinions to evaluate new changes and improve bear hunting opportunities in the future. Beginning in April 2017, DFW submitted a survey to individuals who purchased a bear permit for the 2016 bear hunting season. Hunters were surveyed to gather information on their opinions of season structure and timing, permit quotas, observed bear activity, and attitudes about the new and more liberal regulations implemented during the 2016 bear hunting season.

METHODS

The survey was conducted from April 3 to September 2, 2017 to query 2016 Bear Permit buyers about their hunting activity, preferences, and satisfaction during the 2016 Bear Hunting Season. Correspondence notifying buyers about the survey was e-mailed to 5,905 hunters who had purchased a Bear Permit in 2016 and provided an e-mail address. Follow-up e-mails were sent on two occasions to bolster participation. In addition, postcards were mailed on July 24, 2017 to 2,193 bear permit buyers who did not have an email address on file, including 543 farmers. These individuals were directed to the web link that enabled them to participate in the survey.

RESULTS

DFW e-mailed correspondence to 5,905 Bear Permit Buyers who provided an e-mail address; 272 of these e-mails were returned as undeliverable, resulting in 5,633 notifications sent. DFW then mailed postcards to 2,193 Bear Permit Buyers who provided a mailing address but no e-mail address. This included 543 farmers. 150 postcards were returned as undeliverable, resulting in 2,043 notifications sent. The postcard directed individuals to the web link to access the survey.

In total, DFW notified 7,676 bear permit buyers via e-mail or postcard; 1,680 responses were logged from a total of 1,823 attempts at the survey. A total of 1,440 different individuals attempted to complete the survey (19% response rate). Some permit buyers attempted to complete multiple surveys but their additional responses were censored out using their unique Conservation Identification Number (CID). Ninety-five (95) respondents provided no data other than CID.

Of the 1,345 respondents who attempted the survey, 11 provided at least their participation in either or both Segments but little other information aside from CID and Age. Overall, some respondents completed every question, but some did not, so the number of responses reported varies by question.

DFW biologists have determined the following from the survey:

Eight percent (8%) of respondents did not hunt after purchasing the Bear Permit, compared to 5.3% of NJ Firearms Hunting License buyers who did not hunt after buying a license (Burnett, A.W. 2016, 2016 NJ Firearm Hunter Survey. NJDFW. Trenton, NJ. 57 pp.).

Of all respondents (1,345 responses):

8%	Did <u>NOT</u> hunt after buying the Bear Permit	(107)
92%	Did Hunt after buying the Bear Permit	(1,238)

Non-participants after buying the permit tended to be in the older age classes (78% were 50 and older); while 81% of participants were age 21 to 64 and 58% of participants were 50 and older.

AGE

Did Not Hunt (104 responses)

1%	10 to 16	(1)	
1%	17 to 20	(1)	
6%	21 to 35	(6)	
14%	36 to 49	(15)	
49%	50 to 64	(51)	---
29%	65 and over	(30)	---} 78%

Hunted (1,230 responses)

<1%	10 to 16	(9)	
2%	17 to 20	(23)	
13%	21 to 35	(160)	—}
27%	36 to 49	(334)	} 81%
41%	50 to 64	(501)	—}
17%	65 and over	(203)	

Non-residents comprised 10.5% of permit buyer respondents, although non-residents constitute 7.3% of NJ license buyers and 11.9% of bear permit buyers. Specific county of residence is found in the Demographics Section at the end of this report.

Overall, bear permit buyers were about evenly distributed in their reasons for buying the bear permit (harvest a bear, harvest a large bear, reduce bear population). Buyers who hunted stated that they bought the permit to reduce the population more often than buyers who did not hunt (35% vs 20%). More of the buyers who did not hunt appeared to buy the permit for the chance to kill a large bear if it came by them (45%) which may explain their rationale for not participating, i.e. harvesting a bear incidental to deer hunting. Successful hunters achieved their objective more than half of the time by harvesting a bear of any size (37%) or harvesting a large bear if the opportunity arose (16%).

What is the primary reason you purchased a bear permit(s) during the 2016 bear hunting season?

All Respondents (1,334 responses):

29%	385	To harvest a bear of any size
30%	394	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself
12%	160	To reduce the population where I live
22%	292	To reduce the population where I hunt
8%	103	Other reasons
	1,334	

Of those that did NOT hunt (104 responses):

21%	22	To harvest a bear of any size
45%	47	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself
9%	9	To reduce the population where I live
11%	11	To reduce the population where I hunt
14%	15	Other reasons
	104	

Of those that hunted (1,230 responses):

30%	363	To harvest a bear of any size
28%	347	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself
12%	151	To reduce the population where I live
23%	281	To reduce the population where I hunt
7%	88	Other reasons
	1230	

Of those that were successful (240 responses):

37%	88	To harvest a bear of any size
16%	39	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself
12%	28	To reduce the population where I live
28%	66	To reduce the population where I hunt
8%	19	Other reasons
	240	

Most respondents (54%) stated that the bear population where they hunted was too high. Those respondents who did not hunt were ambivalent about the size of the bear population, but those who hunted (56%), and especially those who were successful (68%), stated that the bear population was too high.

The population of bears where you hunt most is:

	All	Did not hunt	Hunted	Successful
Too high	54% (719)	38% (38)	56% (681)	68% (164)
About right	36% (473)	39% (39)	35% (434)	26% (63)
Too low	10% (136)	24% (24)	9% (112)	5% (13)
	N=1,328	N=101	N=1,227	N=240

Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents stated that they bought a second bear permit. Five percent (5%) of respondents stated that they bought a third bear permit.

Indicate the bear hunting zone(s) in which you had a permit during the 2016 bear hunting season.

BMZ	1 st Permit	2 nd Permit	3 rd Permit
1	29% (386)	16% (77)	19% (13)
2	27% (359)	37% (172)	29% (20)
3	20% (259)	25% (116)	29% (20)
4	20% (266)	19% (90)	13% (9)
5	4% (52)	3% (15)	9% (6)
	N=1,322	N=470	N=68

Did you participate in hunting during Segment A (October)?

Did you participate in hunting during Segment B (December)?

Of the bear permit buyers, Segment A is the most popular hunting segment. Three-quarters of bear permit buyers (75%) hunted Segment A, while 66% hunted Segment B. Only 18 percent (18%) of bear permit buyers hunted Segment B only.

Of all respondents (1,345 responses):

48%	Hunted both Segments A & B	639
27%	Hunted Segment A only	361
18%	Hunted Segment B only	238
8%	Did not hunt after purchasing the Bear Permit	<u>107</u>
		1,345

More than half (52%) of bear permit buyers who hunted participated in both Segment A and Segment B, about one-quarter (29%) hunted Segment A only and 19% hunted Segment B only. More than three-quarters (81%) of bear permit buyers who hunted participated in Segment A while 71% of respondents who hunted participated in Segment B.

Of those that hunted (1,238 responses):

52%	Hunted Both Segment A and Segment B	639
29%	Hunted Segment A Only	361
19%	Hunted Segment B Only	<u>238</u>
		1,238

81%	Hunted in Segment A	1,000
71%	Hunted in Segment B	877

One thousand-two hundred and two (1,202) black bear permit buyers recorded a minimum of 3,026 hunting-days in Segment A and a minimum of 2,480 hunting-days in Segment B for a minimum total of 5,506 hunting-days for the 2016 Black Bear Hunting Season. Fifteen percent (15%) of bear permit buyers who hunted were one-day per season hunters. Ten percent (10%) of bear permit buyers who hunted participated in all six days of each or either segment. Four percent (4%) stated that they hunted every day of both segments.

How many days did you hunt bears in NJ during the 2016 bear hunting season?

Hunted Both Segments

# of days hunted	Segment A	Segment B	Individuals Hunting Both Segments
1	105	89	38 7%
2	130	138	
3	127	118	
4	80	53	
5	55	48	
6	67	118	49 9%
n=564			

Hunted Segment A only

# of days hunted	Segment A	Individuals Hunting Segment A
1	119	26%
2	112	
3	100	
4	47	
5	46	
6	37	8%
n=461		

Hunted Segment B only

# of days hunted	Segment B	Individuals Hunting Segment B
1	25	14%
2	37	
3	46	
4	14	
5	22	
6	33	19%
n=177		

Hunted only 1 day in Segment A and only 1 day in Segment B: 15% (182/1202).

Hunted all 6 days in each or either Segment: 10% (119/1202).

Hunted all 6 days in Segment A and all 6 days in Segment B: 4% (49/1202).

About one-third (34%) of bear permit buyers who hunted traveled less than 10 miles to their hunting spot, with about one-quarter (22%) traveling more than 61 miles. These ratios hold true for successful bear permit buyers also (32% and 28%).

How far did you travel (one way) from your residence to where you hunt bears?

Of those that hunted (1,233 responses):

34%	Less than 10 miles	(422)
16%	Between 11 and 20 miles	(194)
14%	Between 21 and 40 miles	(177)
14%	Between 41 and 60 miles	(170)
22%	More than 61 miles	(270)

Of those that were successful (240 responses):

32%	Less than 10 miles	(76)
14%	Between 11 and 20 miles	(34)
13%	Between 21 and 40 miles	(30)
14%	Between 41 and 60 miles	(34)
28%	More than 61 miles	(66)

More than three-quarters of all bear permit buyers (79%) and buyers who hunted (80%) prefer to hunt in Segment A.

What segment do you prefer for bear hunting?

	ALL		Hunted	
A	79%	1,048	80%	986
B	21%	281	20%	241
Responses		1,329		1,227

Indicate the primary reason why you prefer Segment A:

42%	There are more bears available for harvest during Segment A	415
33%	I have the ability to harvest a bear using archery as a weapon during Segment A	327
10%	Segment A doesn't interfere with the six day firearm deer season	102
10%	Segment A generally has better weather conditions	99
4%	I have other reasons to prefer Segment A	43
		986

More than three-quarters of respondents who hunted (78%) were satisfied with the bear hunting season structure.

Of those that hunted:

Satisfaction w/Current Season Structure: 78% Yes 953
(1,223 responses) 22% No 270

Please indicate the one statement which best fits your view of a better bear hunting season format.
(270 responses)

29%	Rather see a LONGER Segment A and still retain Segment B	79
16%	Rather see the entire season in October, with no segment in December	42
8%	Rather retain Segment A and see Segment B moved out of the 6-Day firearm deer season	21
7%	Rather see Segment A begin EARLIER than it currently starts (second Monday in October)	19
2%	Rather see Segment A begin LATER than it currently starts (second Monday in October)	5
10%	Rather only have a season in December, as in previous years	26
3%	Rather only have a season in December but moved out of the 6-Day firearm deer season	7
26%	Other (please specify)	71

Respondents answering “Other” stated they would prefer to see a Spring Bear Season (14), use archery equipment in all seasons (13) and desire a longer Segment A (10), along with another 34 various suggestions.

Received a Permit for their BMZ of Choice: 97% Yes 1,194
(1,230 responses) 3% No 36

Hunt bears where they normally hunt for deer: 81% Yes (991)
(1,227 responses) 18% No (224)
1% I do not hunt deer (12)

Hunt bears: 51% Private Land (626)
(1,225 responses) 38% State Land (471)
8% Federal Land (93)
2% Municipal Land (24)
1% County Land (11)

Indicate ALL land ownership types that you utilized while bear hunting:

(1,225 responses)

64%	Private	780
15%	Federal	187
56%	State	684
5%	County	56
5%	Municipal	67

Total is > than 100% due to
ALL types being listed

Please rate your opinion of your experiences while bear hunting this past season.

(1,219 responses)

19%	Excellent	227
27%	Very Good	325
32%	Good	390
14%	Fair	174
8%	Poor	103

Will you continue to hunt bears in New Jersey during future seasons?

(1,217 responses)

99%	Yes	1,200
1%	No	17

Although the bear hunter success rate for the 2016 season was 7.9%, 20% of respondents stated success at harvesting a bear during the 2016 season. This may indicate that successful hunters were more likely to respond to the survey than those who were not successful.

Were you successful harvesting a bear during the 2016 bear hunting season?

(1,223 responses)

20%	Yes	(240)
80%	No	(983)

For about half (48%) of successful bear hunters, this was their first bear harvested.

First Bear Harvested?

(240 responses)

48%	Yes	115
52%	No	125

Only 32% of respondents who hunted bears did so over bait, but 51% of successful respondents hunted bears over bait.

Did you use bait while hunting bears during the 2016 bear hunting season?

BAIT—those that hunted			BAIT—successful		
32%	Yes	386	51%	Yes	122
68%	No	<u>837</u>	49%	No	<u>118</u>
		1,223			240

More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) would harvest two bears (one in each segment) if given the opportunity and 80% of respondents who harvested a bear in 2016 stated that they would harvest 2 bears (one in each segment).

Would you harvest 2 bears (one in each segment) if given the opportunity?

All Respondents			Those that Hunted			Successful		
68%	Yes	900	69%	Yes	849	80%	Yes	191
32%	No	<u>423</u>	31%	No	<u>374</u>	20%	No	<u>49</u>
		n=1,323			n=1,223			n=240

Nearly 90% of permit buyers who hunted in Segment A chose to use a bow, with bow type nearly evenly split between the compound bow and the crossbow. The same ratios held true for successful hunters.

What type of weapon did you use to hunt during Segment A?

Those respondents who hunted:

73%	Archery	727	47%	Crossbow	415
10%	Muzzleloader	100	51%	Compound	455
16%	Both	<u>163</u>	2%	Primitive	<u>18</u>
		990			888

SUCCESSFUL respondents:

82%	Archery	188	48%	Crossbow	100
8%	Muzzleloader	18	48%	Compound	101
10%	Both	<u>22</u>	4%	Primitive	<u>9</u>
		228			210

The vast majority (79%) of bear permit holders who hunted stated that the opportunity to harvest a bear in Segment A would not decrease their desire to hunt in Segment B.

Does the opportunity to harvest a bear during Segment A decrease your desire to hunt in Segment B?

Those respondents who hunted:

21%	209	Yes
79%	<u>777</u>	No
	986	

What is the primary reason you chose not to participate during Segment B?

Those respondents who hunted:

24%	88	I chose to hunt deer instead
19%	68	I harvested a bear in Segment A and did not want to harvest another this year
16%	57	Hunting bears with archery equipment was not permitted
7%	24	I hunted during Segment A and did not want to hunt again during Segment B
5%	18	There was no one available to hunt with and/or help retrieve my bear
4%	14	The weather was unfavorable for hunting during Segment B
3%	10	There was no permit available for the place I hunt
23%	82	Other (please specify below)
	361	

The other reasons included work (31), no time (16), no bear activity (7), distance (7), sick (6), hunt other state (6), too crowded (4), no bear hunting spot (3), cost (1), and no ride (1).

The vast majority of respondents who hunted reported hunting from a fixed position, either an elevated stand or ground hunting spot. Hunters used drive hunting more often in Segment B than Segment A.

What is the primary hunting method you utilized to hunt bears during the 2016 bear hunting season?

Those that hunted

A			B		
60%	elevated stand	632	51%	elevated stand	427
34%	ground hunting	354	34%	ground hunting	282
6%	still hunting	58	8%	still hunting	68
1%	drive hunting	<u>7</u>	7%	drive hunting	<u>60</u>
		1,051			837

Successful

A			B		
49%	elevated stand	114	39%	elevated stand	45
47%	ground hunting	108	39%	ground hunting	45
3%	still hunting	7	8%	still hunting	9
1%	drive hunting	<u>2</u>	14%	drive hunting	<u>16</u>
		231			115

The ratios hold true when considering weapon type.

Archery Hunters			Archery hunters now using a firearm in Segment B		
A			B		
63%	elevated stand	559	54%	elevated stand	295
32%	ground hunting	284	32%	ground hunting	175
4%	still hunting	38	7%	still hunting	37
0%	drive hunting	<u>2</u>	7%	drive hunting	<u>36</u>
		883			543

M/L Hunters			M/L hunters participating in Segment B		
A			B		
51%	elevated stand	135	44%	elevated stand	89
39%	ground hunting	103	35%	ground hunting	70
8%	still hunting	20	12%	still hunting	24
2%	drive hunting	<u>5</u>	9%	drive hunting	<u>19</u>
		263			202

Non-residents are slightly more likely to pass on shots on bears within range than residents (34% to 31%). Non-residents are twice as likely than residents to pass on a shot when their stated purpose for hunting is “To harvest a bear of any size” (28% to 14%), which is curious because their stated reason for hunting is to kill a bear. Non-residents are more likely than residents to pass on a shot when their purpose is “To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself” (43% to 35%). Less than one-quarter of non-residents hunt bears to reduce the population (23%); about a third of residents hunt bears to reduce the population (37%).

Hunters are not passing on shots on bears because the bear is tagged or radio-collared. Only 9 of 386 (2%) of hunters who passed on a shot on a bear in range did so because it was tagged or radio-collared.

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of non-residents who pass on a shot were then successful by harvesting a bear, whereas only 29% of residents who passed on a bear were successful. This result contrasts with 16% of non-residents who did not pass on a shot then were successful and 15% of residents who did not pass then harvested a bear. In other words, hunters who passed on shots on bears in range were twice as successful as those who did not pass on shots. This begs the question: Are hunters passing on shots because they are in a good location and seeing multiple bears or are they just proficient bear hunters who are being selective about the bears which they shoot.

		Non-Resident				Resident		
	Harvest	Passed on Shot				Passed on Shot	Harvest	
39%	18	46	34%	Yes	31%	340	98	29%
16%	14	90	66%	No	69%	747	110	15%
		136				1,087		

REASON FOR BEAR HUNTING

NON-RESIDENTS

RESIDENTS

ALL HUNTERS

43%	59	To harvest a bear of any size	28%	304
29%	39	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself	28%	308
1%	1	To reduce the population where I live	14%	150
22%	30	To reduce the population where I hunt	23%	251
5%	<u>7</u>	Other reasons	7%	<u>81</u>
	136			1,094

THOSE HUNTERS WHO PASSED ON SHOT

28%	13	To harvest a bear of any size	14%	46
43%	20	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself	35%	119
2%	1	To reduce the population where I live	16%	55
22%	10	To reduce the population where I hunt	26%	88
4%	<u>2</u>	Other reasons	9%	<u>32</u>
	46			340

NON-RESIDENTS

Non-residents hunted primarily on State land (46%); seventy-six percent (76%) said they hunted bears where they hunt for deer. Nearly three-quarters (72%) hunted to kill a bear of any size or a large bear if the opportunity was presented; only 22% said they hunted bears to reduce the bear population in the areas where they hunt.

What is the land ownership type on which you do most of your bear hunting?

Non-residents who hunted:

35%	Private	48
15%	Federal	21
46%	State	63
1%	County	2
1%	Municipal	2
		136

Do you hunt for bears where you normally hunt for deer?

Non-residents who hunted:

76%	Yes	104
21%	No	28
3%	I do not hunt deer	4
		136

What is the primary reason you purchased a bear permit(s) during the 2016 bear hunting season?

Non-residents who hunted:

43%	To harvest a bear of any size	59
29%	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself	39
1%	To reduce the population where I live	1
22%	To reduce the population where I hunt	30
5%	Other reasons	7
		136

RESIDENTS WHO HUNTED BEARS WHERE THEY DO NOT HUNT DEER

Even residents who target bears (those who hunted bears where they do not hunt deer) hunted primarily on State Land (60%) and overwhelmingly hunted to kill a bear or a large bear (78%), not to reduce the population.

What is the land ownership type on which you do most of your bear hunting?

Residents who hunted bears where they do NOT hunt deer:

32%	Private	65
6%	Federal	12
60%	State	123
0%	County	1
1%	Municipal	3
		204

What is the primary reason you purchased a bear permit(s) during the 2016 bear hunting season?

Residents who hunted bears where they do NOT hunt deer:

39%	To harvest a bear of any size	80
39%	To harvest only a large bear if the opportunity presented itself	79
4%	To reduce the population where I live	8
7%	To reduce the population where I hunt	15
11%	Other reasons	22
		204

RESPONSES FROM THOSE THAT DID NOT HUNT:

Those permit buyers who did not hunt and stated that they could not get a permit for the BMZ of choice reported that they could not get permits in 1, 2 and 4, with BMZ 1 mentioned most often.

Received a Permit for their BMZ of Choice: 89% Yes
(104 responses) 11% No

Although 81% of respondents who hunted reported that they hunt bears where they normally hunt for deer, only 31% of those respondents who did not hunt reported same.

Would have hunted bears where they normally hunt for deer: 31% Yes
(61 responses) 69% No

Would have Hunted in: 61% Segment A
(102 responses) 39% Segment B

Satisfaction w/Current Season Structure: 79% Yes
(100 responses) 21% No

Those permit buyers who did not hunt provided the following statements on their view of a better bear hunting season format:

Please indicate the one statement which best fits your view of a better bear hunting season format.
(21 responses)

14%	3	I would rather see a LONGER Segment A and still retain Segment B
10%	2	I would rather see the entire season in October, with no segment in December
10%	2	I would rather retain Segment A and see Segment B moved out of the six day firearm deer season
14%	3	I would rather see Segment A begin EARLIER than it currently starts (second Monday in October)
5%	1	I would rather see Segment A begin LATER than it currently starts (second Monday in October)
10%	2	I would rather only have a season in December, as in earlier bear seasons
0%	0	I would rather only have a season in December but moved out of the six day firearm deer season
38%	8	Other (please specify)
	21	

The other formats included longer season (3), a November season (2), a spring season (2), and a shorter season (1).

Those permit buyers who did not hunt provided the following reasons for not hunting in Segment B:

What is the primary reason you chose not to participate during Segment B?

38%	39	I chose to hunt deer instead
16%	16	There was no one available to hunt with and/or help retrieve my bear
3%	3	There was no permit available for the place I hunt
2%	2	Hunting bears with archery equipment was not permitted
1%	1	The weather was unfavorable for hunting during Segment B
40%	41	Other (please specify below)
102		

The other reasons included work (13), no time (11), sick (5), no bear hunting spot (4), hunt other state (3), no bear activity (2), no reason (2) and distance (1).

Those permit buyers who did not hunt stated that they would continue to hunt bears in NJ.

Will you continue to hunt bears in New Jersey during future seasons?

95%	Yes	92
5%	No	5
		97

ALL RESPONDENTS

Demographics:

Age of All Respondents (1,334 responses)

<1%	10 to 16	10
2%	17 to 20	24
12%	21 to 35	166
26%	36 to 49	349
41%	50 to 64	552
17%	65 and over	233

In which county do you reside?

Of those that hunted:

10	Atlantic
76	Bergen
13	Burlington
7	Camden
6	Cape May
1	Cumberland
31	Essex
6	Gloucester
19	Hudson
69	Hunterdon
16	Mercer
45	Middlesex
42	Monmouth
197	Morris
136	Non-resident (11%)
53	Ocean
85	Passaic
2	Salem
31	Somerset
245	Sussex
22	Union
122	Warren
<hr/>	
1,234	

Did not hunt:

2	Atlantic
7	Bergen
1	Burlington
2	Camden
	Cape May
	Cumberland
1	Essex
2	Gloucester
	Hudson
9	Hunterdon
2	Mercer
5	Middlesex
6	Monmouth
7	Morris
5	Non-resident (5%)
9	Ocean
5	Passaic
	Salem
5	Somerset
20	Sussex
4	Union
14	Warren
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106	